Brooklyn, August 4, 1836.

My dear Henry:

51 From 1 o'clock to 6, yesterday afternoon, all of us, under the family roof, were awaiting your arrival with the utmost solicitude and the most earnest expectation. Father took his station at an early hour at the window, looking intently down the avenue, till he felt weary enough to lie down; while I took a long stroll on the turnpike, (via Job Maine's,) hoping to encounter you and bro. May, by way of surprise. At last, just as we were about sitting down to tea, the chaise made its appearance, containing, to our disappointment, only bro. M. You can easily imagine how we all felt, after having our anticipations so strongly raised; for there is scarcely any thing so difficult to bear with cheerful resignation, as sudden disappointment in cases where affection and love and sympathy are deeply interested. — Your letter satisfactorily accounts for your non-appearance. We are disposed to acquiesce in the decision you have made. All things considered, you have doubtless acted prudently in determining to tarry awhile longer in Providence. A change of physicians ~~with~~ would be a change of medical treatment, which, in your present feeble state of health, might prove detrimental. If you do not find that a sea air affects you injuriously, I should think the state of the atmosphere in Providence would not be far inferior to ours in Brooklyn.

But, when one is sick, who is like a mother? (except a loving wife, shall I not say?) Dear sister Charlotte has done, and will continue to do, all that sisterly affection can prompt — blessings rest upon her head for her uniform, ample, unwearied kindness, in the midst of the cares and responsibilities of a growing family! Brother George, too, is all-abounding in kindness, solicitude and attention. By coming here, you would gain in numbers, but could not in attachment, because we all, whether in Providence or Brooklyn, hold you in like esteem. You would exchange a brother and a brother-in-law, for a brother-in-law, and thus lose a brother; but you would gain four sisters for one, and a father and mother besides. — Nevertheless, it is not society, or local situation, or choice of relations or friends, that you need at present, so much as health; and it is a duty to remain wherever there is the best prospect of recovering the latter.

It is encouraging to learn by bro. May, that Dr. Brownell does not think that your lungs are yet seriously affected; and from your letter, that your cough is better, and that the eruptions upon your hip have disappeared.

You write that you are very lonesome. My only fear was, that, in coming to Brooklyn, you would soon feel solitary, because, in a village like this, all is monotonous, and a new incident is a startling phenomenon; whereas, in

Providence, every day something transpires to interest or diversify, and you get all the news promptly:—besides, in the course of a few weeks, bro. May and family, and myself and family, will be removed to Boston, (Deo volente,) so that you would be deprived of the little entertainment we might be able to furnish you.

We all feel indebted to Phebe Jackson, on your account, for her unremitting kindness, as well as to other friends.

The West India trip looks too formidable to you, now. It was suggested merely in case the complete restoration of your health might seem to demand it. I should lament the necessity of such a voyage, and earnestly desire with you, that it may be safe for you to remain here through the winter. Should it be otherwise, I should hope that our mutual friend, Wm. M. Chace, would accompany you; for he would be both nurse and companion. There would be no difficulty in raising the wherewithal for you both. The approbation of the National Society would be rather a matter of form, than an obligation to perform labor.—But it is not necessary to dwell upon this subject.

Bro. May complains, that he was crowded into a corner on Tuesday evening, by the protracted order of exercises, so that he failed to do justice either to himself or his theme. Considering how short are the evenings, this was unfortunate. I dare say, however, that bro. May's remarks were better than his fears decide, and that he did not spend his strength for nought.

I shall wait with impatience to see an authentic and correct version of the disturbance in Boston. I had heard nothing of it till your letter came. What an eventful day was the first of August last year in Boston, to bro. Thompson! This year it is still signalized in the same city. (Rescue of slaves from court-room, Lib. 6. 127)

Mr. Henry C. Benson,
Providence,
R. I.

Helen will thank sister Charlotte to purchase two French prints, gowns for little George, blue and buff, (each a yard and a half,) and forward the bill in the bundle. Health abides under our roof—little Anna is improving. Divide my heart among you all. With much sympathy and love, I remain, yours, in brotherly ties,

Wm. Lloyd Garrison.